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THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS ACT
(CAP. 306)

REGULATIONS

(Made under section 165)

THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS (ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATION NUMBERING AND ADDRESSING) REGULATIONS, 2018

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THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS ACT
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COMMUNICATION NUMBERING AND ADDRESSING) REGULATIONS, 2018

PART I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

- Citation 1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electronic and Postal Communications (Electronic Communication Numbering and Address) Regulations, 2018.
- Application 2. These Regulations shall apply to all electronic communication operators and any service provider in relation to Telecommunication numbering resources and dot-tz Electronic Addresses.
- Interpretation 3. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:-
“Accredited Registrar” means an organisation accredited by tzNIC for its competence to undergo registration process of dot-tz electronic addresses and domain names;
- Cap.306 “Act” means the Electronic and Postal Communications Act;
“assignee” means any electronic communication operator or entity assigned Electronic Communication Numbers by the Authority;
- Cap. 172 “Authority” means the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act;
“database manager” means an administrator of dot-tz database of electronic addresses and names;

- “director general” means the Director General of the Authority;
- “electronic address” means the address used for electronic communication and shall include addresses under dot-tz country code Top Level Domain also known in its acronym as ccTLD;
- “electronic communication” means radio communication or, as appropriate, the communication of information in the form of the electronic speech or other sound, data, text or images, by means of guided and unguided electromagnetic energy;
- “electronic communication operator” means any person licensed by the Authority to provide radio communication or telecommunication services;
- “electronic communication number” means a number, sign or any other mark which an electronic communication operator in its delivery of electronic communication services uses for identification of electronic communications facilities in order to connect between the place of transmission and the place of reception, or for identification of the type of content of transmission the electronic communication facility is to deliver;
- “electronic communication facility” means any facility used or intended to be used for electronic communication;
- “national numbering plan” means the scheme of identification prescribed in these Regulations or other regulations made and maintained by the Authority for ensuring that electronic communications are correctly and efficiently directed to their intended points of reception;
- “national signalling point codes plan” means the plan for Signalling Point Codes as maintained by the Authority;
- “numbering register” means the Communication Numbering System Register;
- “short code” means a number that is not a supplementary code and has a maximum of six (6) digits;

“Signalling Point Codes” or in its acronym SPC” means codes used in the networks to identify the exchanges national or international between which speech path connections are to be established;

“tzNIC” means the Tanzania Network Information Centre entrusted to serve both as the technical and administrative Manager of dot-tzccTLD;

“tzccTLD” means country code Top Level Domain for Tanzania;

"Unstructured Supplementary Service Data" or in its acronym USSD means a Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication technology that is used to send text between a mobile phone (using a number that contains at least one occurrence of a star (*) or a harsh (#)) and an application program in the network;

“utilised numbers” means numbers that are allocated to customers or kept for internal system and human communications or that have been distributed to a dealer on SIM cards;

“VAS short code” means an electronic communications number designated for Value Added Services;

“Value Added Services” or in its acronym VAS means extra electronic communication services as provided by an assignee other than basic telecommunications services.

PART II

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION NUMBERING AND ADDRESSING

Power of the Authority and enforcement measures

4. (1) The Authority shall manage and monitor all electronic communication numbers and addresses in order to ensure fair and efficient usage.

(2) The Authority shall take enforcement measures against misuse or illegal use of the electronic numbering resources.

National numbering plan management

5.-(1) National numbering plan shall include electronic communication numbers used to identify:-

(a) electronic communication networks or various carriers;

- (b) terminal facilities for cellular phones;
- (c) signalling transmission equipment;
- (d) emergency, help, health and inquiry calls;
- (e) terminal transmission line facilities for data communication services;
- (f) unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) applications;
- (g) Value added services; and
- (h) terminal transmission line facilities for paging services, space for future technological developments.

(2) The Authority shall maintain and update the National Numbering Plan as appropriate.

Procedure for assignment of electronic communications numbers

6.-(1) An electronic communications number shall be issued to:-

- (a) licensed telecommunication network services licensee; and
- (b) unlicensed entity for VAS short codes subject to the nature of Value Added Services to be provided;

(2) An applicant for electronic communications number shall be assigned to one VAS SMS Short Code and one VAS USSD short Code and where additional short codes are required, with exception of Government entities the applicant shall apply for application services licence as provided by the Authority.

(3) Political parties shall not be eligible for direct assignment of any numbering resources.

(4) Any electronic communications licensee or unlicensed entity requiring electronic communication numbers shall submit to the Authority:-

- (a) the appropriate application form;
- (b) all relevant documents and reasons for use of the said numbers;

(c) estimated demand as the grounds for said request; and

(d) plans for provision of telecommunication services for the numbers required.

(5) Subject to sub regulation (2), the Authority may assign electronic numbers and issue a certificate of assignment subject to payment of prescribed fees and other conditions set by the Authority.

(6) The Authority shall identify GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE and ORDINARY VAS short codes according to digit patterns for the most memorable to the least memorable codes.

(7) The Authority shall determine an application for numbering resources within 21 days from the date of receiving the application.

Assignment criteria
of VAS Short Codes

7.-(1) The following shall be assignment criteria for VAS SMS short codes:-

(a) GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE codes shall be assigned based on customer preference and code availability;

(b) ORDINARY codes shall be assigned serially with respect to categories and availability.

(2) The following shall be the minimum requirements for new VAS short codes applicants:-

(a) dully filled application form;

(b) certified copy of certificate of incorporation or registration;

(c) certified copy of company's memorandum of association;

(d) company profile;

(e) Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN); and

(f) physical and mailing address.

- (g) detailed description of the service to be provided using the code applied for.
- (h) receipt of the processing fee.

(3) An applicant for numbering resource holding an individual licence issued by the Authority shall fill an application form for numbering, attach a certified copy of the licence, detailed description of the service to be provided using the code applied for and receipt of the processing fee.

Auditing of
electronic
communication
numbers

8.-(1) An assignee shall submit in writing to the Authority on any date in the month of May of each year, the utilized electronic communication subscriber numbers for the purposes of auditing and billing.

(2) Where the assignee does not inform the Authority on the utilization of the electronic communication numbers or pay relevant fees such electronic communication numbers shall be removed from the numbering register and when needed, the corresponding assignee shall re-apply for it again depending on the availability.

Assignee obligations

9.-(1) Any assignee shall use the electronic communication numbers as assigned by the Authority in accordance with the national numbering plan and shall ensure that the resources are:-

- (a) utilised efficiently;
- (b) limited to provision of electronic communication services;
- (c) utilised in a manner that electronic communication facilities or services may be identified; and
- (d) paid for in accordance with the Application Guidelines and Fees for Numbering Resources as may be provided by the Authority.

(2) The annual maintenance numbering fee payable to TCRA on assigned subscriber numbers shall be paid upon reconciliation of numbers ported in and out for the case of numbers involved with mobile number portability.

(3) An assignee shall not re-sell or trade any part of the assigned electronic communication numbers to a third party.

(4) An assignee shall be responsible for discontinuation of traffic related to a numbering resource whose service has ended.

(5) Where the assignee does not intend to maintain the assigned number he shall notify the Authority in writing ninety days before the expiration of the current numbering certificate.

Use, registration and management of dot-tz electronic addresses and names

10-(1) Any company, government and non-governmental organizations, society, partnership or community registered and conducting business in Tanzania shall register and use domain names with *dot-tz* ccTLD.

(2) Dot-tz Electronic Communications shall be used for all official correspondences unless where proved technically not possible.

(3) The Authority shall regulate all electronic addresses and ensure efficient use by:-

- (a) performing proper planning, allocations and monitoring;
- (b) maintaining the national electronic address register for all carriers and operators in respect of resources which have been assigned;
- (c) performing an oversight role on the management of country's code Top Level Domain (ccTLD); and
- (d) maintaining electronic address register of electronic Address assigned to service providers and their subscribers list.

Obligations of dot-tz electronic addresses, names data base manager and accredited registrars

11.-(1) All entities assigned with internet resources by the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) shall submit to Authority on a monthly basis both assigned and in use Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

(2) The Authority shall maintain an updated National Database of any IP addresses in use and registered domain names in the United Republic.

(3) The tzNIC shall submit to the Authority information on the assigned IP addresses and registered domain names every quarter of the year, starting January of each year.

Changes of electronic communication numbering

12. Where the numbering plan has to change, the Authority shall issue notice to the public and the assignees at least six (6) months prior to the date of change.

Cancellation of electronic communication numbers and addresses assignments

13.-(1) The Authority may cancel the assignment of a numbering resource where the assignee:-

- (a) fails to use an electronic communication number assigned by the Authority; or
- (b) fails to pay annual maintenance fees.

(2) Where an Assignee fails to renew an electronic address registered by tzNIC, the domain name shall automatically be deleted from the Registry.

PART III SIGNALLING POINT CODES

National signalling point codes plan management

14.-(1) National signalling point codes plan shall include international and national formats used to identify-

- (a) the world geographical zone where the network is located;
- (b) the geographical area or network within a specific world zone;
- (c) the signalling point (international exchange) within a specific geographical area or network;
- (d) a Signalling Area or Network Code (SANC);
- (e) the network (operator) in which the exchange is located;
- (f) the hierarchical layer of the exchange in the operator's network;
- (g) the geographical area where the exchange is located; and
- (h) space for future assignments.

(2) The Authority shall maintain and update the signalling point codes plan as appropriate.

Assignment of signalling point Codes

15. The Authority may assign signalling point codes and issue a certificate of assignment with the conditions:-
- (a) if it determines that the Signalling Point Codes required for provision of electronic communications services are available; and
 - (b) upon payment of the relevant fees.

Obligations of Signalling Point Codes (SPCs) assignee

16. Any Signalling Point Codes assignee shall use the code only as assigned by the Authority and in accordance with the national Signalling Point Codes Plan.

PART IV GENERAL PROVISIONS

Compliance, offences and penalty

- 17.-(1) A person shall not use an electronic communication number without a certificate of assignment issued by the Authority.

(2) Any electronic communications licensee shall not use any short code either on direct dialing, SMS or Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) without an authorization by the Authority.

(3) Mobile Network Operators shall not integrate any numbering resource or continue connecting where the assignee has not presented the renewed certificate on yearly basis.

(4) A person shall not re-sell or trade any kind of electronic communication numbers or addresses.

(5) Where the assignee surrenders the number, and then found to be active in the network it will be regarded as misusing that number by that Mobile Network Operator.

(6) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of these regulations commits an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of not less than five million Tanzanian shillings or to imprisonment for a term of not less than twelve months or to both.

(7) Notwithstanding sub regulation (6), where a person commits an offence under these Regulations, the Director General may, where such person admits in writing

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compound such offence by collecting from that person a sum of money not exceeding the amount of the fine prescribed for the offence.

Revocation
G.N. No.428
of 2011

18. The Electronic and Postal Communications (Electronic Communication Numbering and Addressing) Regulations, 2011 are hereby revoked.

Dar es Salaam,
30th January, 2018

MAKAME M. MBARAWA
*Minister for Works,
Transport and Communications*